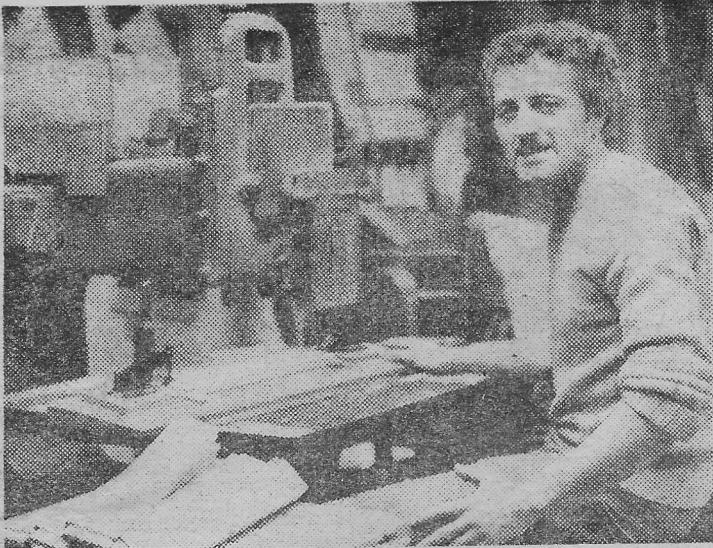


# Sports Standard



Tony Horseman . . . hoping to carve up 'Boro.'

## 'Bodger' can nail Charlton's men

By RICHARD TAYLOR

SPEND a day in the Buckinghamshire town of High Wycombe—"If you want good furniture make sure it was made here"—and you get a strong feeling of how personal the FA Cup can become for an entire town.

Tomorrow, close on 12,000 people from the town will go to the Loakes Park ground, gather round the famous sloping pitch, and witness the Cup's traditional third round encounter—David against Goliath.

When Jack Charlton brings his Middlesbrough team from the top of Division One of the Football League to Wycombe's Rothmans Isthmian League home, he might get the impression he's taking on the whole town.

And the town's hopes will live in one particular player, Tony Horseman.

Striker Horseman, born locally, has been with the club, and none other, for 14 years. He's consistently been Wycombe's leading scorer and the leading Isthmian scorer more times than he can actually remember.

That last point shouldn't be taken as a sign of inverted big-headedness on Horseman's part. It's consistent with his attitude and his character. Easy-going, laconic, he does things his own way and says what he wants to say.

He's a bad trainer. "We're footballers, not long-distance runners." Though he admits to changing since Brian Lee took over as manager: "He taught me there's more to it than being just an out-and-out goalscorer. He taught me to use my brain. And that's important—I'm getting on a bit now."

Horseman is 34 and his career has left him with one disappointment, not getting to Wembley with the club.

His career has also had one mystery—how such a prolific goalscorer could not get an England cap.

He says: "I don't think I was the right type for them. All the training and fitting in with this, that and the other. Not my style. It would have been nice to play, display for Great Britain, but I can't say I'm really worried."

Many of his mates will be there tomorrow from the firm of chair-makers where "Bodger" Horseman is a wood machinist.

His family will also be there: wife Christine, who persuaded Horseman to go to Wanderers for a trial when he was 20, and playing in a local league, son Stephen, 13, and daughters Julie-Anne, 12, and 10-year-old Nicola.

There's a strong football connection there—not only through Stephen, but Julie-Anne as well. Horseman says: "She used to play for the boys team at her school, and a local club side. But she's had to pack it in now. She's growing."

As for Middlesbrough: "I don't honestly think we can expect to win. If we were playing a side with a few prima donnas I'd fancy us a bit more—one of the London sides say, not mentioning any names."

"I can't imagine the slope of the pitch worrying them. Too much is made of that. We don't play to it, anyway."

"We'll enjoy the game. We'll make them earn their £200 this week."

Two seasons ago, Horseman retired, but was persuaded back. It's tempting to imagine that he might see a season including such a match as tomorrow's as a fitting finale.

## Wycombe must keep cool

GIVE 100 per cent effort for 90 minutes, cut off their supply-lines, be on extra guard against lightning-fast breaks from defence to attack—and you can win!

That's the far from cheering eye-of-battle advice to would-be giant-killers Wycombe Wanderers from a man who should know: Mel Sutton, the veteran defender with Third Division Wrexham, who knocked Middlesbrough out of the Cup in the fourth-round last season.

Sutton, formerly with Aston Villa and Cardiff, starred in Wrexham's 1–0 win, and says: "The present Boro' team is virtually the same as then and, from



what I've seen on TV, they haven't changed their style much.

"Wycombe must be careful. Boro' are perhaps the most hard-working and solid side in the Football League, and Wycombe will have to match their work-rate, or it's curtains."

"They haven't got a weak link anywhere, they believe in themselves and they've got some smashing players."

"They are great at soaking up tremendous pressure, and then breaking fast with deadly counter-attacks."

He added: "Mills and Foggon are the danger men up front. Mills, in particular, is a deadly striker and both of them are always ready to cash in on fast breaks."

"They criss-cross over the field a lot, trying to draw defenders out of position and create gaps. We were prepared for this, and our full-backs were waiting to pick them up when they started dodging about—so our defence was never exposed."

Wycombe's chances? Sutton says: "Boro' must be hot favourites, but anything can happen in the Cup and they can be upset if Wycombe keep cool and throw them out of gear."